



AGS Ezine

Newsletter of the Arkansas Genealogical Society

Vol. 13 No. 10 October 2018

Jane A. Wilkerson, editor
Brandon Ryan, list manager

Coming Events

October 6, 2018

Arkansas State Archives, *Genealogy 101*, speakers include Kermit Channell, Executor Director of the Arkansas State Crime Lab, 10 a.m., Male and Female Academy, Powhatan Historic State Park. For more information go to www.archives.arkansas.gov

October 13, 2018

Arkansas State Archives, *Tracing Your Arkansas Roots: Genealogy 101*, speakers include Thea Baker and Diana Gilpin, 9 a.m., Historic Washington State Park. For more information go to www.archives.arkansas.gov

October 21, 2018

Genealogical Society of Craighead, General Meeting, 2 p.m., Round Room, Jonesboro Library, 315 Oak Avenue, Jonesboro.

October 22, 2018

Heritage Seekers Genealogy Club, *World War I Memorials in Arkansas*, speaker Mark Christ Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, 6:30 p.m., Room 66, Second Presbyterian Church, 600 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock.

October 25, 2018

Bella Vista Museum, Open House, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., 1885 Bella Vista Way, Bella Vista. For more information go to <https://www.bellavistamuseum.org/>

October 27, 2018

Arkansas State Archives and Friends of the Arkansas State Archives, *Genealogy Research Day*, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., #1 Capitol Mall, Little Rock. For more information go to www.archives.arkansas.gov

Its Almost Here Arkansas Genealogical Society

2018 Fall Seminar

October 19-20, 2018

**Benton Event Center,
Benton, AR**

**Friday Speaker:
Jeanne Rollberg**

**Saturday Speaker:
CeCe Moore**

Coming Events

October 19-20, 2018

The Arkansas Genealogical Society 2018 Fall Conference will be at the Benton Event and Convention Center in Benton, Arkansas. CeCe Moore, Professional Genetic Genealogist is scheduled to present.

November 3, 2018

Tennessee Genealogical Society Seminar, speaker Blaine T. Bettinger, DNA Specialist German-town Church of Christ, 8723 Poplar Pike, Germantown, TN. For more information go to <https://www.tngs.org/Events>.

November 4-10, 2018

National Genealogical Society Guided Research Trip to Washington, D.C. Visit *Upfront With NGS* for the details.

November 13, 2018

Arkansas State Archives, *Pen to Podium: Arkansas Historical Writers' Lecture Series, Hidden History of Fort Smith*, by Ben Boulden, 6:30 p.m., Department of Arkansas Heritage Diamond Room, 1100 North Street, Little Rock, Arkansas.

November 26, 2018

Heritage Seekers Genealogy Club, *The Confederate Monuments Controversy: Can We Find a Middle Ground?*, speaker Bobby Roberts, director Emeritus CALS, 6:30 p.m., Room 66, Second Presbyterian Church, 600 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock.

January 20, 2019

Genealogical Society of Craighead, General Meeting, 2 p.m., Round Room, Jonesboro Library, 315 Oak Avenue, Jonesboro.

January 28, 2019

Heritage Seekers Genealogy Club, *Leave the Light On: A few ideas for Writing Family Histories*, speaker David Stricklin, Butler Center, 6:30 p.m., Room 66, Second Presbyterian Church, 600 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock.

February 2, 2019

Genealogical Society of Craighead, Genealogy Lock-In, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Genealogy Day at the Archive



Photograph courtesy of the Arkansas State Archives

On Saturday, October 27, 2018, the Arkansas State Archives and the Friends of the Arkansas State Archives will sponsor Genealogy Day at the Archives from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the second floor of the 1 Capitol Mall building in Little Rock.

The Archives staff will be joined in the Research Room by volunteers from the Friends organization, members of the Arkansas Genealogical Society, and members of Heritage Seekers Genealogy Club to provide individual consultation and help with family history. Bring your research problems and brick walls. Beginners, will receive help to get started. Advanced researcher, can receive help to find that special record to solve that longstanding problem.

The Archives holds a vast collection of Arkansas documents, county records, church records, organizational records, and newspapers. It also has a large library collection that contains histories and abstracts and indexes of records from Arkansas and all southern states. The Archives huge microfiche collection, also includes entire books of family histories and vital records.

They also have computers available to provide access to Ancestry.com, newspapers.com, and other databases. The facility, also provides free wifi to access online family trees. This event is free and requires no registration. Just bring with you the information you know.

Coming Events

February 17, 2019

Genealogical Society of Craighead, General Meeting, 2 p.m., Round Room, Jonesboro Library, 315 Oak Avenue, Jonesboro.

February 25, 2019

Heritage Seekers Genealogy Club, Moving Wilder (Georgia Settlement) Cemetery, speaker Joe Clements, Heritage Seekers, 6:30 p.m., Room 66, Second Presbyterian Church, 600 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock.

March 17, 2019

Genealogical Society of Craighead, General Meeting, 2 p.m., Round Room, Jonesboro Library, 315 Oak Avenue, Jonesboro.

March 25, 2019

Heritage Seekers Genealogy Club, TBA, speaker Phillip Snodgrass, Heritage Seekers, 6:30 p.m., Room 66, Second Presbyterian Church, 600 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock.

April 21, 2019

Genealogical Society of Craighead, General Meeting, 2 p.m., Round Room, Jonesboro Library, 315 Oak Avenue, Jonesboro.

April 22, 2019

Heritage Seekers Genealogy Club, DNA, speaker Mike Engel, Genetic Genealogist, 6:30 p.m., Room 66, Second Presbyterian Church, 600 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock.

May 9-11, 2019

National Genealogical Society Family History Conference, *Journey of Discovery*, St. Charles, Missouri.

May 19, 2019

Genealogical Society of Craighead, General Meeting, 2 p.m., Round Room, Jonesboro Library, 315 Oak Avenue, Jonesboro.

May 20, 2019

Heritage Seekers Genealogy Club, Camp Nelson Cemetery Restoration, speaker R.D. Keever, Camp Nelson, 6:30 p.m., Room 66, Second Presbyterian Church, 600 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock.

The Arkansas State Archives is interested in you!

The Arkansas State Archives and Friends of the Arkansas State Archives are looking for eager individuals to help indexing county and state records. Work is one sitting down, along side staff members, with gloves and masks provided. It takes place on Tuesday mornings from 9:00 to noon in a conference room at the Collections Management Facility on North Street in Little Rock where parking is more easily available than at the Archives. Come and join the fun.

Arkansas Ancestors Who Flew Too Close to the Sun: The Wayward and Wanton

by Jeanne Rollberg

The following is republished from AY Magazine. The Article written by Jeanne Rollberg, was published September 21, 2018.

Do you have an Arkansas ancestor who flew too close to the sun? That could mean that he or she fell from grace at the peak of power because of excessive risk taking, or was simply mischievous, wayward or wanton in other ways.

Born in 1839, Arkansas-born John Selman was called a “wicked lawman and vicious outlaw” for patterns of crimes across several states. Lawman and alleged horse thief Wyatt Earp was a well-known name in Arkansas lore. Ever hear of Van Buren-born “Killin’ Jim” Miller?

At [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com), the “Fort Smith, Arkansas, Criminal Case Files Index, 1866-1900,” researchers can find initial information and supporting documents in other collections. In 1876, Alfred Jones’ crime was straightforward – “liquor.” Investigate your own wayward ancestors or engage in a fascinating overview of others’ black sheep and records at the [Arkansas Black Sheep Ancestors](https://www.arkansasblacksheepancestors.com) website.

Criminal, mentally challenged, rebellious or careless ancestors possessed their own special magic and offer critical life lessons for us, but they are challenging to fully research, understand and contextualize.



Coming Events

June 23, 2019

Genealogical Society of Craighead, General Meeting, 2 p.m., Round Room, Jonesboro Library, 315 Oak Avenue, Jonesboro.

July 20, 2019

Genealogical Society of Craighead, Genealogy Lock-In, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

July 21, 2019

Genealogical Society of Craighead, General Meeting, 2 p.m., Round Room, Jonesboro Library, 315 Oak Avenue, Jonesboro.

August 18, 2019

Genealogical Society of Craighead, General Meeting, 2 p.m., Round Room, Jonesboro Library, 315 Oak Avenue, Jonesboro.

August 21-24, 2019

The [FGS](#) National Genealogy and Family History Conference will be held in Washington, D. C.

August 24, 2019

Obion County Library Genealogical Seminar, 9 a.m. Obion County Tennessee Library.

October 24-26, 2019

RootsTech Conference will be held in London, England. For more information go to <https://www.rootstech.org/London?cid=bl-fsup-8055>

September 2-5, 2020

The [FGS](#) National Genealogy and Family History Conference will be held in Kansas City, Missouri.

Finding the Wayward and the Wanton in Arkansas and Beyond

Initial research about our wayward ancestors begins with the typical database or paper record searches for birth, marriage, military, land/voting and death records. That's sometimes the easy part. Gather what you can from extended family members. Information archived by them often provides helpful details about ancestors who got in trouble, but the embarrassment of having legendary ancestors sometimes means there's little documented trail within family records. There may be a good deal of family lore, and that's at least a place to start to learn about the standouts in our trees. Follow those Arkansas family stories!

Head to a branch of the Arkansas State Archives or search the Archives' online databases. The good news about a wayward ancestor is that he/she often made the papers. There is microfilm at many Arkansas libraries and archives. Using databases like the Library of Congress' (free)

[Chronicling America](#), [Genealogybank.com](#), [Newspapers.com](#) and other free and subscription newspaper databases can open up a treasure trove of information that helps us document ancestors in America. (Some Italian-American, German-American and Swedish-American newspapers are included at Chronicling America.) Try using an ancestor's name plus an additional key word like "robbery" to narrow a search. This database is from 1789-1963, but all newspapers are not there for that length of time. Many online newspapers may be investigated at the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies and at the Central Arkansas Library System or many other local libraries across the state.

[RELATED: Crowdsourcing Your Family History](#)

Immigrant ancestors often appeared in newspapers in their countries of origin, too. Increasing numbers of online international newspaper [databases](#) allow us to read, and see English translations of, articles about their illegal or destructive activities.

Like other forebears, these often had predictable patterns of behavior that were repeated from location to location. Many ancestors who came to Arkansas were fleeing military service in Europe. In America, their mischievous, independent and sometimes illegal ways continued.

Helpful Collections and Databases Showcase the Wanton Ancestors

We're in luck! Significant collections about notorious ancestors in many countries have become available online in the last 15 years. These vary by time period. (We must remember that archives, historical societies and municipalities still house many collections that are not online, so checking there in person is crucial.) Not only are there registers for prisoners, but there are also descriptions of the prisoners, photos and sometimes court case information that allows us to capture the flavor of the era. For non-criminal but troubled ancestors, check databases for hospitals, almshouses and orphanages, especially in large cities like New York.

Most of our families have ancestors who didn't always live in Arkansas. And the wayward and wanton, in particular, liked to be fleet of foot. A search of

“Criminal” in the Ancestry.com Card Catalog brings up 17 collections in England/Wales, Scotland, Australia and America. U.S. circuit criminal court case files are also available, as are registers from notorious prisons like Sing Sing in New York. FamilySearch.org has a wiki that explains about United States Court Record available [here](#).

[RELATED: Explore Heritage Travel](#)

At the Arkansas Blacksheep Ancestors site, there are helpful listings by county of such records as state penitentiary inmate lists, court records, and land, will and financial records that can help you piece the story together. There are even photos of some inmates, too. Findmypast.com recently added several million new records in its “England & Wales Crime, Prisons, and Punishment” collection. And if you’re looking for female scofflaws in particular, there’s a blog post about wayward women in crime records at blog.findmypast.co.uk

Here’s a helpful and often overlooked tip: When looking for criminal or “troubled ancestor” records in a particular country/location, join a Facebook page dedicated to that area’s genealogy. Researchers familiar with local collections there will often graciously point you to the right resources for the time period.

Quelle Horreur! Embracing Your Natural State Ancestor’s Story

We often find fascinating or humorous aspects in the lives of our wayward ancestors, but they can also bring a certain heaviness that leaves family members with weighty emotional baggage. These ancestors’ antics and hardships can drain us, and can also make us wonder whether their genetic make up and troublemaking tendencies “means” something about us. We must deal with how much information to share with other family members about our discovery. Some people are hesitant to acknowledge that any member of the family tree wasn’t perfect, or at least respectable. Every Arkansas ancestor’s life has lessons for us. Sometimes a lesson can be not to behave as the ancestor did. Sometimes we are forced to consider the context of the activities historically and to learn that our ancestor’s behavior, if not good, actually wasn’t that unusual.

We can choose to bestow, as our risk-taking ancestors probably requested of the authorities, mercy and not justice. By discovering more about our wayward ancestors, as Jared Anderson wrote in a hymn, we thus “breathe life into these dry and thirsty souls” once again.

[RELATED: Explore Final Destinations to Enliven Ancestors Stories](#)

Jeanne Rollberg is a genealogist with American Dream Genealogy and Research who is also on the boards of the Arkansas Genealogical Society and the Friends of the Arkansas State Archives. She teaches genealogy classes at LifeQuest of Arkansas.

Arkansas Genealogical Society 2018 Fall Seminar



**Featuring CeCe Moore
& Jeanne Rollberg
October 19-20, 2018**

**Program: Friday, October 19, 2018
Both Presentations by Jeanne Rollberg, AGS Board Member**

5:00PM Registration (Vendors Open 5:00PM - 9:00PM)

6:00PM Social Media Enhance Family History: Mining the Fields Traditional genealogy research may be combined with proper uses of Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Pinterest, and blogs to enrich the family tree and enliven connections in the family history experience. Evaluate and use social media with expertise.

7:00PM Break

7:30PM The Ancestor Pester/ Excelling in Genealogy Travel/Reunions & Research Together -

Nearly 1/3 of Americans - and especially Baby Boomers - visit family and broader heritage sites yearly, often combining reunions/other travel with family history study. Learn to systematically maximize research while getting the most from travel.

**Saturday, October 20, 2018
All Presentations by CeCe Moore**

8:00AM Registration (Vendors Open 8:00AM - 3:00PM)

9:00AM The Power of DNA: Genetic Genealogy Basics - Understanding the basics of the four types of DNA and three types of genetic genealogy tests is essential to successfully applying genetic genealogy to furthering your research. This presentation helps to lay the foundation for genealogists interested in adding genetic genealogy to their skill set.

10:00AM Break

10:30AM Who Am I: Exploring Ethnicity Estimates - Addressing the question of "Who am I?" through DNA testing that provides ethnicity percentages is becoming a popular research tool. Attendees will learn how to better interpret and analyze these results and what they can and cannot tell you about your family tree.

11:30AM Lunch

1:00PM AGS Annual Meeting

1:30PM Applying Autosomal DNA to Your Genealogical Research - The introduction of autosomal DNA into the genealogical scene empowered our use of DNA to learn more about our ancestors in a way never before possible. This presentation will cover FAQs regarding best practices and the most efficient methodologies in the application of autosomal DNA to our research.

2:30PM Break

3:00PM Genetic Genealogy Case Studies - Step-by-step case studies demonstrate the use of all four types of DNA in conjunction with traditional research to solve genealogical mysteries and showcase the exciting possibilities this work offers.

**Arkansas Genealogical Society
2018 Fall Seminar Registration Form**

October 19-20, 2018

**Benton Event Center
17322 I-30 North Benton, AR**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

email: _____

Registration Fee

A syllabus is guaranteed for those registered by September 24

- _____ **\$20 Friday Night Only**
- _____ **\$40 Saturday Only (includes a box lunch)**
- _____ **\$55 Friday & Saturday (includes Saturday's box lunch)**
- _____ **\$25 (AGS Membership - New and Renewing)**
- _____ **Total Enclosed**

Make Check Payable to AGS and mail to:

**AGS Fall Conference Registration
P O Box 26374
Little Rock AR 72221-6374**

Hotel Reservations can be made at:

**Fairfield Inn & Suites
17320 Interstate 30 North
Benton, AR, 72019
(501) 722-6330**

National Archives Virtual Genealogy Fair 2018

October 24, 2018 - sixth annual virtual Genealogy Fair

Every year, the National Archives hosts a virtual Genealogy Fair via live webcast on YouTube. The sessions offer family history research tools on Federal records for all skill levels. Thousands of family historians participate in the live event.

As a virtual attendee, you can:

- Watch the entire day on YouTube.
- Join us – from wherever and whenever.
- Participate with the presenters and other family historians during the live event.
- Watch individual sessions and download the materials at your convenience -- live or after the event.
- Attend free of charge and registration!

Administrative Stuff

Contributions: If you have news for the Ezine, send it! To agscontributions@gmail.com — Thanks!

AGS: To learn more about [Arkansas Genealogical Society](http://www.agsgenealogy.org), visit our website at <http://www.agsgenealogy.org>

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